

THE JACOBS REPORT

**GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
Assistant Democratic Floor Leader
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

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GRANHOLM SIGNS REMAINING BUDGETS

Increases Funding for K-12, Universities and Community Colleges

Governor Jennifer Granholm signed budgets that invest in Michigan's public schools while striving to make post-high school education accessible and affordable to every student in the state. Gov. Granholm called the budgets a strong investment in education and the economy.

"These budgets are clear evidence that we are committed to investing in our schools," she said. "To compete in a global economy, we must give every student the tools they need to succeed while making education beyond high school affordable and accessible. These budgets help us achieve both of those goals."

The 2007 budget for Michigan's K-12 schools allocates \$13.1 billion, representing an overall increase of \$336.6 million over the current fiscal year.

The per-pupil foundation allowance increases by \$210, raising the minimum to \$7,085 per student.

Funding for early childhood and preschool initiatives is increased by \$10.6 million for a total of nearly \$100 million. These initiatives include: Michigan School Readiness Program (\$78.8 million); Great Parents, Great Start ISD 0-5 Program (\$5 million); Early Childhood Investment Corporation (\$1 million); and 0-3 Secondary Prevention Services (\$1.75 million).

In addition, \$20 million is included in the budget to continue to close the funding gap for lower-funded districts.

The budget for Michigan's colleges and universities totals \$1.8 billion, \$1.6 million of which is general fund. University operations funding will see an increase of 3 percent over the current year. Each university will receive at least a 2.5 percent increase next fiscal year, exceeding the projected inflation rate.

Over \$258 million is provided for student scholarships and grants. The Michigan Merit Award Program will be funded at \$127.7 million. As recommended by Governor Granholm, the Tuition Incentive Program is increased to \$14 million and the Nursing Scholarship Program will see a 6.3 percent increase to \$4.25 million.

MEDC HELPING MORE COMPANIES EXPAND In MICHIGAN

Projects Expected to Create and Retain 2,418 Jobs

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced plans to help three companies expand their operations in Michigan and is backing five brownfield redevelopment projects. The eight targets are expected to create and retain a total 2,418 jobs and involve \$259 million in private investment in communities throughout Michigan—including Ferndale.

“This is evidence that Governor Granholm’s economic plan is paying dividends,” said state Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs. “I’m especially pleased to see results in my district.”

The city of Ferndale will team with Singer-Wolfson Development Corporation to transform the former Stop and Go automobile service garage on East Nine Mile Road near Woodward Avenue into mixed-use retail space, loft condos and parking. State and local tax capture valued at \$141,291 will support the project, which is expected to generate \$5.1 million in private investment and create 40 new jobs.

“Michigan has seen a flurry of company expansions, new investment and new jobs in the past several months thanks to our innovative economic development programs and a tremendous partnership with local communities throughout the state,” MEDC President and CEO James C. Epolito said.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a partnership between the state and local communities, promotes smart economic growth by developing strategies and providing services to create and retain good jobs and a high quality of life. For more information on the MEDC’s initiatives and programs, visit the Web site at www.michigan.org.

SUPPORT STEM CELL RESEARCH

Sign the On-Line Petition

Last week, a strong bi-partisan majority in the United States Senate opened the doors of medical research by authorizing new federal funding for stem cell research.

Unfortunately, less than 24 hours later, President George W. Bush used his first-ever veto to stop the discovery of new treatments and cures for injuries and diseases including juvenile diabetes, Parkinson’s and spinal cord injuries.

Despite obstacles in Washington, we have a great opportunity to help life-saving efforts here in Michigan.

Legislation to ease restrictions on critical research in Michigan is pending in both the State House and Senate.

Stem cell research holds the power to improve the lives of thousands of Michiganders. The men, women and children who suffer from conditions for which there is no treatment or cure deserve our help. So do the families and friends who care for them.

If you agree with more than 70% of the American people, political leaders of both parties and many of this country’s top scientists who support this critical research, then join the cause by signing the online petition asking the Michigan legislature to open the doors to medical research by passing this legislation: <http://www6.dleg.state.mi.us/parsers/govstemcellparser.shtm>

WIT, WISDOM, ETC . . .

Quotables

“You play to win. Anything less than that is losing.”

-Washington Nationals First Baseman Nick Johnson

“The great enemy of clear language is insincerity.”

-George Orwell, quoted in the Newton, Conn. Bee

Quote of the Week: Abraham Lincoln

“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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